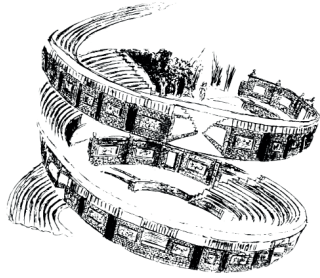


Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
November 9, 2024 | Issue No. 2724



MICROFICTION

In the silence of a hospital room, salvation weighs heavy on the heart.
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THE ROOTS OF WISDOM

The thankless backbones of our academic identity.
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THE WEIGHT OF LEGACY

The clash of honoring tradition while embracing individuality
Page 4

Editorial

To Question, To Respond

Ganadhipati Aryan

Penguin See, Penguin Write.

When I flip through the pages of the *Weekly*, I see more than ink on paper. Over the decades, these pages have been home to criticisms, hopes, and questions, putting together numerous personal journeys into one larger story: that of our School, and its community. Eighty or so people before me have taken on this role, and with each handover, the essence of this publication has endured, marked by subtle transformations. The *Weekly* has always been more than just a newspaper — it's a collection of our shared experiences, values, and disagreements.

If you see something going wrong in School (which you know, happens... sometimes), it is your duty to speak up.

There seems to be a common concern about the creeping tendency to soften the hard edges of our discussions, tailoring what we publish to fit neatly within the bounds of acceptability. Sometimes, it feels like we have adopted the mantra of "telling it as it is" but with the filter set to "as it should sound." This cautiousness, while perhaps rooted in a well-meaning desire to preserve order and unanimity risks diluting the spirit of this publication. The *Weekly* was never meant to be a passive reflection of what's deemed safe to say. Rather, it was intended as a space for vibrant

— sometimes uncomfortable — conversations that engage us all.

This cautiousness, while perhaps rooted in a well-meaning desire to preserve order and unanimity, risks diluting the spirit of this publication.

The legacy of *The Doon School Weekly* deserves both celebration and safeguarding. It is our responsibility as writers, readers, and members of this School, to keep that alive — not merely by preserving its structure but by staying true to its spirit. This publication was established about ninety years ago to give each student a place to speak freely and engage in honest dialogue, from the smallest classroom moments to reflections on who we are becoming.

But, in recent years, I've often wondered: *Are we truly maintaining the legacy, or have we drifted into a safer, more comfortable version of it?*

Each Saturday morning, students gather in anticipation of the week's issue, but it's about much more than just routine interest. These

pages serve as a platform where ideas come to life, where voices find expression, and where opinions spark thought and dialogue. It is our job, as caretakers, to ensure that the *Weekly* remains a genuine mirror of our world — not just an idealised reflection, but a true one. It is this very role that makes it invaluable, for it dares to present our world "exactly as it goes."

We live in a time when the world outside our gates is polarised and complicated, and perhaps this makes us more wary of contention within our walls. However, a healthy school community like ours should not shy away from its complexities. I believe that critical thinking and the courage to question are the very things that distinguish a Dosco. This School has always strived towards an education that prepares us for life, and part of that preparation is the ability to speak up and to listen with an open mind.

For the *Weekly* to truly thrive, we must encourage our readers not to simply accept what is written, but to engage with it — to question, and above all, to respond. It's tempting, in the rush of School, to just glance over articles, but the *Weekly* offers much more. For it to remain the heartbeat of our community, it needs active readers who are willing to hold it accountable, to expect the best from it, and to contribute

(Continued on Page 3)

This Week in History

1922 CE: British archaeologist Howard Carter discovers the tomb of the famous Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamen.

1923 CE: Adolf Hitler and Erich Ludendorff attempt to start an insurrection in Germany against the Weimar Republic, but are suppressed the following day.

1953 CE: Cambodia gains independence from France.

1980 CE: Republican Ronald Reagan is elected as the 40th president of the United States.

READER'S CHECKLIST

Here is what the School Community has been reading over the past week:

Asvarya Thapa: *Omnibus* by Kenith Anderson

PKD: *Illusions* by Richard Bach

Sayyam Maroo: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

ACTA, NON VERBA

Arjun Prakash has been awarded the **Scholars' Blazer**.

Congratulations!

LISTENERS CHECKLIST

Here is what the School Community has been listening to over the past week:

Manit Jain: *But Daddy I Love Him* by Taylor Swift

Anant Jain: *Vampire* by Olivia Rodrigo

Vir Sandhu: *Levitating* by Dua Lipa



Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.

—
Albert Einstein

MICROFICTION

“Anesthesia!” *beep*. “She’s losing blood!” *beep*. “Hold her still!”. I waited patiently for the next *beep*, just as she told me to, but it never came. “I’m sorry,” he said, just as he had to countless others that week. The plague my mother had caught was no short of a devil’s creation. In a matter of months, it had the world at a standstill, leaving us with no option but to concede. The cause was unknown, synonymous with its cure, thus earning its name ‘ignotus’. It sent those unfortunate souls into manic outrages, ceasing their fits only at the sight of a loved one. And so, when the time came for the affected to be put down, or to be researched, the one they hold dear must be present, watching, and bearing with the pain for the promised yet distant ‘salvation of humanity’.

-Uday Thakran

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

I am taco for hungry.

Aadi Kandeale, starved for grammar.

Teamworks makes Dreamworks.

Harkirat Singh, animator at heart.

Feminism means slayyyvery.

Shaurya Surana, swinging *that* way.

Let’s depose him on oath.

Aditya Koradia, ‘myself’ best closer.

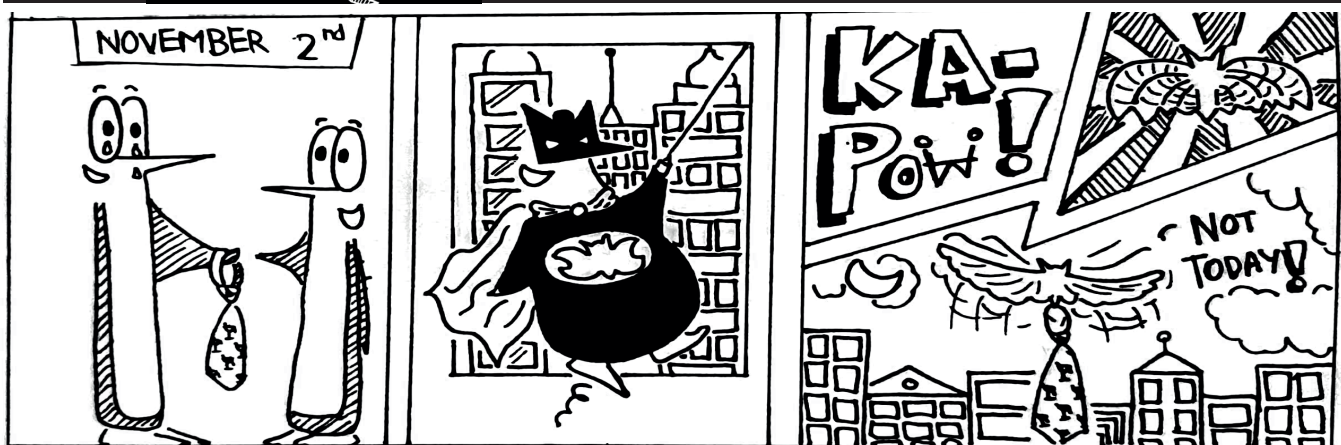
Around the World in 80 Words

President Donald Trump won the United States Presidential Election, beating Vice President Kamala Harris. Bangladesh faced an electricity shortage following Adani Power’s decision to cut electricity supply over outstanding dues of nearly \$850 million. Chip-making giant Nvidia surpassed Apple to become the highest valued company in the world. Viktor Gyokeres hit a hat-trick for Sporting CP to beat Man City 4-1. India threatened Canada after one of Justin Trudeau’s ministers claimed that Amit Shah ordered the killings of Khalistan separatists.

Dosco Doodle

‘The Answer is Blowin’ in the Wind...’

Reyansh Agarwal



(Continued from Page 1)

their perspectives. Passive reading, after all, weakens the impact of what the *Weekly* could accomplish. When we truly engage with its content, we participate in the creation of a culture that values transparency, intellect, and most of all, depth of thought. It's not just about what we print on Saturdays, rather it's about creating a space where DoscOs feel inspired to share their thoughts and express themselves openly. For those who might feel nervous about taking that first step — penning an article, offering a critique, or submitting a poem — remember that the *Weekly* is here for you. It is here for your raw, unfiltered perspectives, and your daring ideas that shape our lives both within and outside this School.

The strength of this publication lies not only in the Editorial Board's commitment but also in each reader's choice to actively engage. The *Weekly* is at its best

when it serves as a bridge — linking us to one another, through mutual understanding, and, yes, provoking debate. After all, our School is a paradigm of the wider world and this is where we learn to become the kinds of citizens who can listen to diverse viewpoints, consider them critically, and respond thoughtfully. If we cannot do that, are we truly fulfilling our responsibilities as students and *thinking individuals*? To my fellow DoscOs, I ask: how will you engage with this publication? How will you contribute to dialogue and commentary? By writing, questioning, or simply by reading with curiosity and openness? It is easy to flip through the *Weekly* each Saturday as though it were just another task on our weekend list, but I urge you to treat it as a platform for discovery — a small but meaningful way to connect with your peers and to contribute to the larger

story which we are all a part of. *This legacy is not something we can passively inherit; it's something we have to nurture. In doing so, we must honour the contributions of those who came before us and illuminate the way for those who will follow.*

As I sit down to write this editorial, I am filled with hope that the *Weekly* will continue to be a space of active engagement — a place where we can take risks and grow together. To do this, we must all take part. Let us not become mere witnesses to the history of School but rather actively participate in its present and shape its future; with honesty, courage, and a commitment to preserving the legacy entrusted to us.

The Roots of Wisdom

Dr Jagpreet Singh writes on the immense impact teachers have on our lives.

If you are able to read this sentence, thank your teachers. They are the ones who took you from the alphabet to Shakespeare, from adding two plus two to calculus, from seeing the veins on a leaf to photosynthesis. Teachers at every level of education mould minds, shape thought and create the future. In today's society, young people tend to revere celebrities from the world of entertainment and sports. But do these people make a real difference to society, to the state of the world? Does an actor help a young boy to learn how to respect women? Does a cricketer convince a girl that she can excel in Maths? No, all these quiet achievements lie in the hands of teachers.

It is these quiet achievements that build a better, more harmonious society, where equality and compassion replace injustice and hatred. It is our teachers who impart the best human values in the minds of the young and encourage them to make the right choices throughout life. Parents play a major role, undoubtedly, but the significance of teachers is no less.

In this age of the Internet and social media, when impressionable young minds are bombarded with information, a teacher's guiding hand becomes all

the more essential. Teachers can help a teenager learn to differentiate between truth and falsehood and even protect them from cyber bullying. They can wean students away from excessive use of social media and 'screen time' by creating alternative activities and spheres of interest away from cyberspace. Teachers know that technology must be the students' slave and not their master. With every passing day, these lessons from teachers are becoming more and more crucial.

Teachers can establish the perfect balance between empathy and discipline when interacting with their students, which builds bonds of trust and respect. So often, we hear an adult saying, "I can never forget what my teacher taught me about making the best use of my talents." In fact, by spotting talent and encouraging a student to lead using his strengths, a teacher can help a man to great achievements even years later. The positive impact of a good, inspirational teacher can last a lifetime.

So, rather than an entertainer or a sports star as a role model, choose your favourite teacher instead. And you will find that your path ahead will be lit by the lamps of knowledge and wisdom.

The Weight of Legacy

Soumik Agarwalla analyses the impact of upholding legacy in this institution.

Legacy is an invisible thread that weaves through the corridors of our School, binding generations together. On the surface, it's an idea that sounds noble — following in the footsteps of those who came before you. But in truth, it's a subtle weight — one that grows heavier when you are expected to fill the shoes of your brother, father, or even grandfather. It's a comparison that lingers, often unspoken yet ever present. You're not seen for who you are, but for how well you align with someone else's story. While there is a certain pride in belonging to such a storied institution, the pressure that comes with it is often more intense than one would imagine.

The expectation to replicate the path is where the pressure starts. There's notions that you're meant to tread a predetermined route, as if your own identity should somehow mirror theirs. And when you stray from the path — whether by choosing a different direction or simply not achieving the same milestones — the unspoken disappointment permeates in the air. It's not something that anyone articulates, but you can sense it in the conversations around you and in the way your efforts are often weighed against a legacy that begins to feel like a burden, not a privilege.

The flip side of this dynamic occurs when you do meet these expectations. School celebrates these achievements with enthusiasm, often in a way that feels quite elevating and instantly gratifying. Your successes become part of a larger narrative, where they are viewed as an extension of family traditions rather than genuine, individual efforts. There's a genuine sense of pride; however, it can also create the impression that your personal accomplishments are linked to something larger — sometimes to the point where they seem less like your own.

Your successes become part of a larger narrative, where they are viewed as an extension of family traditions rather than solely individual efforts.

While the legacy of School provides a unique sense of belonging, it can also create a framework where individuals may struggle to thrive. The very traditions that shape School can sometimes blur the line between personal desires and familial expectations. Legacy students here aren't just building their experiences; they are seen as an extension of their family name, living under the shadows of

those who came before them. This environment, though benevolent, can unintentionally create a culture where personal identity is sidelined in favour of perpetuating an established narrative.

Another issue is how the focus on legacy can impact relationships that one develops. For someone following the footsteps of their sibling or father, interactions with peers and teachers may sometimes feel loaded with unsaid assumptions. One might expect a certain level of performance, or peers may assume that just because your brother excelled in one area, you should too. This can create divisions, fostering a sense of competition rather than collaboration.

Moreover, the School Community often proposes a blanket definition of the student; which may influence the choices one makes during their time at Doon. Some may feel pressured or incentivised to pursue positions and responsibilities that don't align with their interests just to fit into a pre-existing mould.

Another issue is how the focus on legacy can impact relationships that one develops. For someone following the footsteps of their sibling or father, interactions with peers and teachers may sometimes feel loaded with unsaid assumptions.

The solution to this is not to dismantle the legacy system altogether, but to create space for individuality within it. The community should encourage an environment conducive to personal success and growth by encouraging students to pursue their own interests, even if it involves disassociating from the identity established by their relations, emphasising that success isn't in replicating someone else's journey. A healthy balance can be struck where Doscos are inspired by the legacy of those who came before them, but are empowered to create their own story.

Ultimately, each of us at Doon will face this defining question: do we continue to walk the path carved out by those before us, or dare to step off and forge our own? In the end, legacy isn't just about those who came before us — it's about who you choose to become. So, the question remains: will you be content to follow the footsteps of others, or will you leave behind footprints that are unmistakably yours?

Shaken from the Stumps

Atharv Uppal talks about the road ahead for the Indian Cricket Team's Test side.

Test Cricket. Regarded as the purest format of the game, it goes without saying that it demands a lot in terms of strategy. Captains must make balanced decisions about when to attack or defend, how to manage their bowlers' staminas, and predict how the pitch might affect the game. It is the toughest challenge for a captain to lead a successful test cricket side.

Perhaps one of the most daunting challenges for many captains in recent years in cricket would be to win a test match series against India, in India. India was truly a fortress — one that hadn't been conquered since 2012 — that is, until just a few days ago, when a spirited Tom Latham led New Zealand side, rose to the occasion to hand the Indian team their first home defeat in over a decade. One of the first people to receive criticism after this defeat was Indian captain Rohit Sharma, who just a few months ago was being revered for his great captaincy and style of cricket when he led the team to a T-20 World Cup Victory.

These criticisms however, to some extent, can be justified. Rohit has often been called out for his excessive use of a T-20 style thinking in the longest format of the game. Decisions such as pushing Washington Sundar up the order to bat in the game against New Zealand, or having a defensive field placement while spinners were bowling, are reminiscent of white-ball cricket; perhaps not the best for test matches. Moreover,

the attacking brand of cricket that he promotes, 'Ro-Ball', is also attracting criticism. While this style of cricket may be enough to make you win a T-20, the defensive aspect of the game is crucial to test cricket. The fact of the matter is that Rohit Sharma is undeniably a good captain, who often tastes success, but with his batting not at its best and a poor test record, people will begin to question whether he is the best fit for the team, especially in comparison to the stats of his predecessor, Virat Kohli, acclaimed by many as one of the best test captains India has ever had.

The team now however, must put this loss behind them, and look to the future, as qualification for the World Test Championship (WTC) Final has just become a lot harder. India must win five of their next six test matches, a daunting task especially when you consider that five of those games are against defending WTC champions, Australia. Furthermore, it is rumoured that captain Rohit Sharma may be missing for the first two games of the series due to personal reasons, something that could potentially open the door for ex-captain, Virat Kohli, remind the world once again why it was his Indian test cricket team that the world feared. While people remain optimistic about India's chances Down Under, the team's poor run in recent games is a point of concern, and if the team is to perform well, something must change.

किशोरावस्था की राहें

माधव मेहरा

किशोर दिल की उड़ानें, सपनों की बस्ती,
नई उमंगें, नई चाहतें, अनजानी मस्ती।
हर कदम पर सवाल, हर सोच में जवाब,
ख्वाबों के साये में ढूँढते हैं एक किताब।

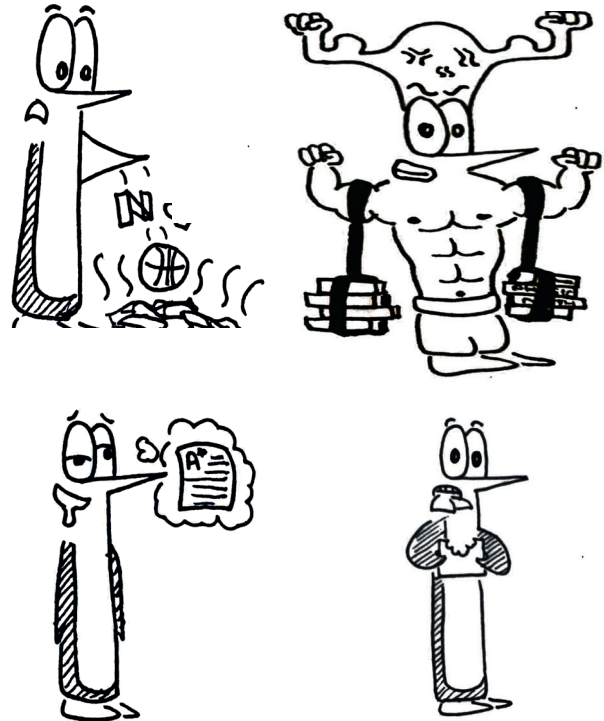
मन में हैं हज़ार तूफान, मगर हौसले कच्चे,
संघर्ष के इस सफ़र में, कदम कभी हैं सच्चे।
गलतियाँ भी होंगी, सीखेंगे तभी सबक,
रास्ते पर चलते-चलते मिलेगा खुद का पदक।

दोस्तों का साथ और दुनिया की नयी राह,
कभी सही, कभी गलत, सिखाए हर एक चाह।
हर दिन नया सबक, नई परिभाषा,
खुद की पहचान में खोई रहती हर छोटी-बड़ी आशा।

सपनों की बुनियाद पर बनेगा ये जहाँ,
हर चुनौती का सामना करना तेरा है काम है यहाँ।
उम्र के इस पड़ाव पर तू है, खुद से मुखातिब,
खुद को पहचान, यही है असली मंज़िल का सबक।

Through the Mud

The best exam tips, from the horse's mouth.



The Week Gone By

Kanishk Bammi

It really seems like time is flying here at Chandbagh, as yet another week has *Gone By*. I've come to realise that this happens to be one of the few sections of this esteemed publication that people actually end up reading, and so my advice would be to take a step further and to flip these six pages around and reach here by the end of your meal, because as the saying goes, save the best for last.

As usual, it has been quite an eventful week here at School. Exactly a week ago, everyone was in anticipation of appointments, were left disappointed as we were planning to accommodate a special set of 21 names on page two for

this week's issue, wishing them a 'fruitful tenure'; however, fate had it another way, as our soon-to-be ex-21 pilots have been asked to work overtime. Speaking of names being printed amongst these pages in a short while, I wish all the very best to those hoping to join us at the bottom of this page. Remember to be yourself, and more importantly, if you are in need of a headstart, share your dessert at lunch today with your favourite Senior Editor, and I'll be sure to put in a good word for you.

Amongst the hearsay, it seems like we have forgotten that it's not 'tea' that gives you that Scholar's point, it's textbooks. Trials are upon us, and while it may seem like the academic comeback is possible (I'm going to start working on mine as soon as I'm done writing this), *dehulu* is not the *solulu*, and as it has been reiterated time and time again from the Podium, we must shift

focus onto our academic pursuits.

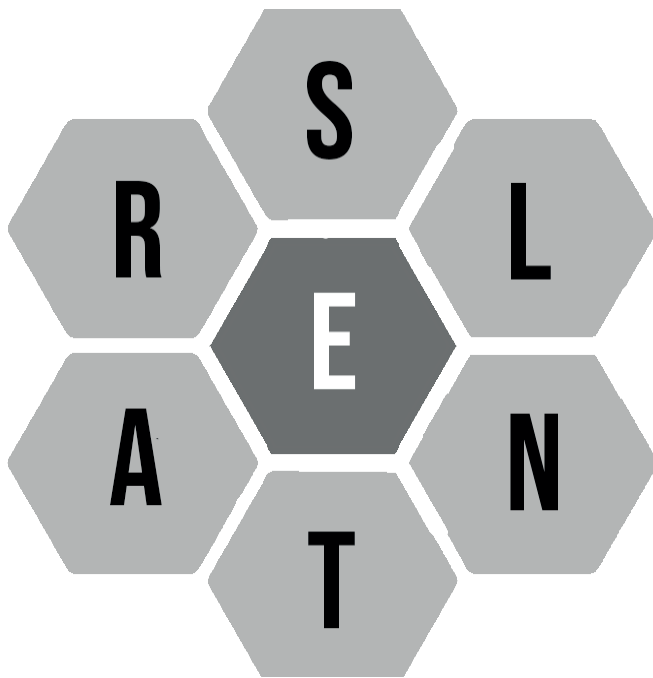
Edit: The academic comeback did not begin. I proceeded to watch reels for the next two hours. I thought it to be twenty minutes. I also spent another hour stuffing food at Socials, thanks to certain persuasive members of my batch. Save yourselves, it's too late for me.

Meanwhile, the weather seems to be becoming 'Palmer', as it is getting increasingly tougher to reach First School Toye on time every morning.

Finally, watching Inter-House Boxing this week taught us all a valuable lesson: everyone has a plan, till they get punched in the face. So, don't get too complacent, and keep going.

It seems like I have exceeded my word limit, so goodbye until next time, when the weather will be much colder, and the CDH much sleepier, but hopefully our Report Cards and Masters much happier.

Word-It



A few answers to this week's
Word-It:
1. Lantern
2. Rentals
3. Nest
4. Rent
5. Real
6. Seat

<https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/maze/>

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